

CITY CORRUPTION 22

AND

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Mal-Administration

DISPLAY'D;

Occasion'd by the Ill Management of the

Publick Money in general:

WITH

Some REMARKS upon a *Modest Enquiry*
into the Conduct of the Council of Aldermen, &c.

Address'd to the Citizens of LONDON against
the ensuing Election for Common-Council-Men,

By a CITIZEN.

L O N D O N.

Printed for J. ROBERTS, near the Oxford-
Arms in *Warwick-Lane.* MDCCLXXXVIII.

CITY CORRUPTION

AND

Mis-Administration

DISPLAY'D

Occasion'd by the Ill Management of the

Publick Money in General;

WITH

Some REMARKS upon the Money Expended
in the Conduct of the City of Aldermen &c.

Assembled in the Court of Common Council-Men
the evening Election for Common Council-Men.

By A. GILBERT.

L O N D O N :

Printed for J. ROBERTS, near the Office
of the City of London, in the Strand.



Friends, Countrymen, and Fellow-Citizens,

WHILE your present Representatives are amusing you with idle and frivolous Harangues against the Power of the Court of Aldermen, which has happily controuled them in their arbitrary and unjustifiable Proceedings; and while they, by all the Arts of low Sophistry and fulsome Flattery, are labouring to gloss over and palliate their corrupt Measures, in order still to uphold themselves in that Power they have so shamefully abused; to the great Dishonour of the City and Magistracy; while these *Gentlemen*, by all the wicked Arts of Deceit, Misrepresentation and Falshood, are endeavouring to impose on your Understandings, and misguide you in your future Choice of *Commoners*; permit me, your Fellow-Citizen, to lay before you, a Series of plain Facts, and these supported by such Evidence as carries its own Conviction with it; whereby you will be able easily to judge for yourselves, Whether those Men who have long had the Conduct of your City Affairs, deserve the Continuance of their Power; or whether they do not merit the Detestation and Resentment of an injured People.

And though these *Gentlemen* would artfully persuade you, that the *Mansion-House* Affair is the only Instance of corrupt Management they have been guilty of, notwithstanding a Scene for the Discovery

of numberless other Instances will soon open to you; and though they pretend giving the Work to the highest Proposer, contrary to their own Act of Common Council, is no Injustice to the City, nor the lowest Proposer: Though all the meanest Tricks, Evasions, and Artifices have been used to make a good Job of this to themselves, and to exclude every other Citizen from having any Chance for the same Work; though these Instances are sufficient to demonstrate them unworthy of that Trust you have reposed in them; yet these alone bear no Comparison with other corrupt Management which has never yet been brought to Light; and of which these Sheets contain only a short Specimen.

And however ready these *Gentlemen* may now seem to submit their Conduct to publick Examination, when they find it is not in their Power to prevent it, and that their Fellow-Citizens are determined to scrutinize into it with the utmost Rigor and Severity; yet can we ever forget the base Attempts that were made against the very Liberty of the Press, to obstruct any such Enquiry. But as they have now join'd Issue, and appeal'd to you likewise to determine whether they deserve your future Favour or no, it is necessary you should know the Men, whose Patriotism is not yet sufficiently characterized and distinguished to the World.

The first Scene that presents itself, is the extraordinary Conduct of a distinguished Club, who to conceal their Patriotism have encircled themselves within a certain grand Luminary, that it might all center in the common Interest only of their dear Constituents. For you must understand, *Gentlemen*, it is a capital Maxim whereby these Gentry are governed, neither to suffer the City or any Individual, except of their own Cabal, to benefit by the Wisdom of their Councils. Here Representatives for the City in Parliament are pricked down, as also

Sheriffs,

Sheriffs, Aldermen, Commoners, Governors of Hospitals, Treasurers, Stewards, Beadles, Nurses, &c.; and here the various *City-Committees* are pitched upon and multiplied, and the most profound Measures pursued to uphold and maintain the Interest of this publick-spirited Juncto; which, as you will observe by the List annexed, deals out the Loaves and Fishes most generously for the Honour and Interest of the City they represent. Did these Gentlemen vouchsafe to let the Metropolis of *England* participate of their Blessings in any Shape, their having an honourable Regard to their own Interest, would furnish little Cause of Complaint. The Misfortune is, here the sacred Office of a Common-Council-Man is prostituted to the lowest and basest Ends. No Man would envy *City-Artificers*, or *Hospital-Surgeons* &c. the honourable Advantages they could make by their Profession; but to find the Laws of Society unhinged, to advance the private Gain of a few, in Opposition to that of the whole, calls aloud for publick Censure and Redress. So grasping after private Lucre has this Knot of People been, that they have suffered nothing to escape them where any offer'd for Plunder. Don't every one remember what self-interested Schemes the *Lighting* only of this City lately broached? So extremely modest were our *City Managers* upon this Occasion, that they projected no less into their own private Pockets than 2378*l.* per *An.* neat Profit. 'Tis no wonder therefore, that the Parliament should be oblig'd to wrest this Matter out of their Hands, and to exclude every Member of the present Common-Council from any interested Concerns therein. And this certainly was a proper Check to that Corruption they were dispos'd to plunge into. Nor is this Restraint any more than what the great Representative itself is subject to; for Seats in Parliament, we know, are vacated by Acceptance of Places under the Crown; and it is the Choice of the People only that deter-

mines

mines who are fit Persons to serve the Publick, where their private Interest is concern'd. For want of a general Restriction of this Nature to controul the Commoners of this City, how shamefully has their Power of late been abused? However disagreeable it may be to wade through the Filth of their Corruption and Mismanagement; yet Truth and the publick Good require me to be minute in Particulars, and to speak my Mind with the honest Freedom of an *Englishman*.

'Twas judg'd necessary by our City Managers, to take under their Consideration, the Affair of *Moor-fields*, in order for some wise Ends, not yet brought to light, to rail it, in the manner it at present appears. Accordingly this important Piece of Work was contracted for, and to have been executed for 628*l.* at 2*s.* 6*d.* per Foot. But after this was finished, the Artificer thought proper to evade his Contract, and instead of demanding the Sum stipulated and agreed upon, he brought in his Bill for 1100*l.* 12*s.* This Procedure meeting Encouragement instead of Condemnation from your Rulers, rous'd a just Spirit of Resentment amidst the disinterested Part. However, the Artificer's Friends, who constituted the Committee of City Lands, in order to screen their good Ally and Associate, very artfully proposed to leave the whole to Arbitration; plausibly urging, that it was but equitable that a Workman should be satisfied for the Value of his Performance. This Point being carry'd, it remain'd only that a proper Person should be pitch'd on to make the Estimation. Accordingly Mr. G—— is proposed by the Committee; a Person wholly unskilled in Business of this Nature, and easily wrought upon to allow whatever should be insinuated as just. This *Gentleman* formally pretends to measure the Work, and brought in his Account 5503 Cubical Feet of Oak, which, valued at 4 Shillings per Foot, amounts

amounts to the abovesaid Sum of 1100*l.* 12*s.* Iniquity being suspected in this Matter, the Opposition prevailed that Mess. *James* and *Dance* should remeasure the Work, which they accordingly did; and brought in the Account but 5110 Cubical Feet only, which at 2*s.* 6*d.* as first contracted for, amounts only to 638*l.* 15*s.* whereby it appears that the Artificer had receiv'd more than he first agreed for by 472*l.* 12*s.* 'Tis scarce possible to believe, what shameful Shifts, Artifices, and Prevarications were hatch'd to prevent coming to a perfect Knowledge of the Quantity of this Work; and that your Representatives should take so much Pains to prevent such egregious Corruption being brought to Light. Moreover, Workmen of the greatest Ability and Integrity have declared, that this Work is perform'd in a very ill manner, both with Regard to Execution and Contrivance. For the Puncheons (as if designed only for the Profit of the Artificer) are of an immoderate Length, some of them going 18, some 20 Inches, and some two Feet into the Ground: So that, together with the bad Contrivance, and the Sap contain'd in them, the Work is already considerably rotted. Had this Performance been judiciously contriv'd, and so executed as to have been both durable and beautiful, the Railing ought not to have been above four Feet high from the Ground, and the Puncheons fram'd into a bottom Rail, which would have been far more neat and Workmanlike, and would have prevented the rotting of the Puncheons, as also have sav'd 615 cubical Feet of Oak to the City. Besides, had the Matter been wisely and honestly managed, there were many able and upright Workmen, who would have undertaken the whole in the best manner for 3*s.* 6*d.* per Foot, whereby this Piece of Railing would have been perform'd for 798*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*, the City sav'd in this Article 301*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* and had the Work executed

cuted in a far better, more substantial, and workmanlike Manner.

Before I dismiss this Affair, give me Leave only to observe, That with regard to the simple Article of Tree-planting upon this Occasion, such was the laudable Frugality, and good Management of these *Gentlemen*, that a Person was introduc'd by one of the Committee to do that for 12 Shillings a Tree, which was afterwards actually done for 18 Pence. Is it any Injustice to the Characters of Men, who will do these things in the Face of the Sun, to insinuate that in every Contract, tho' of ever so trivial a Nature, they have a fellow-feeling, and partake themselves of the exorbitant Expence they run the City to?

The Rebuilding of *Bishop's-Gate* likewise presents us with other Scenes of upright and extraordinary Management. Mr. *Smith* proposes to undertake this Work for 648*l.* but for Reasons best known to your Representative Oeconomists, it was resolv'd that the City Artificers should have this Job; which they very modestly propos'd to do for £950. 00 00 So exquisitely well was this Work perform'd, that, very unluckily for the Reputation of the Undertakers, it fell before the Scaffold was struck; whereby it cost the City an additional Expence for Bricklayers Work to patch it up

_____	85 00 00
And for Mason's _____	159 00 00
_____	1194 00 00

Not content only with depriving Mr. *Smith* of this Work, they most arbitrarily and violently pretended to wrest out of his Hands, a Piece of void Ground adjoining to *Bishop's-Gate*, for which he had contracted for a Building-Lease of 61 Years at 50*l.* Fine, and 8*l.* per Annum Ground Rent, and Tax free.

free. The Committee's Pretence for this Injustice to Mr. *Smith* was, that he had not paid his Fine within 14 Days; whereas it is notorious that many have not paid it within 3 Years. But what was the Consequence of this Conduct to the Corporation? *Smith*, in Vindication of his Right, files a Bill against the Committee; but before it came to a Hearing, they wisely sent their Solicitor to Mr. *Henshaw*, *Smith's* Attorney, to make the Affair up, lest, in the Course of the Trial, some other upright Management should come to light.

The Affair however was made up at the City's Expence. *Smith's* Costs, as paid to

Henshaw, being ————— 71 10 06

And paid the Solicitor of the Committee upon this Account ————— 174 14 11

The Fine lost, which *Smith* was to have paid ————— 50 00 00

As also 8*l.* per Annum Freehold, free from Taxes, lost to the City for ever, at 30 Years Purchase, besides the improv'd Rent after the Building ————— 240 00 00

————— 536 05 05

Expence of the Gate as above ————— 1194 00 00

————— 1730 05 05

So that *Bishopsgate*, by the wise and equitable Conduct of the Committee of City Lands, and the City Artificers, has actually stood the Corporation of *London* in 1730*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.* when they might have had a far more substantial Building for 648*l.*; for so shamefully and abominably ill is this Work performed, notwithstanding the monstrous Expence to which the City has been put, that in the Judgment of all experienced

rienced Workmen, it cannot possibly be of long Duration, because this Edifice is really a perfect Cripple, and propp'd up, since its first Failure, only by Sleight of Art, not upheld by solid, honourable and skilful Workmanship. What Notion can you, my *Fellow-Citizens*, entertain of the Management of the Affairs of the City of *London*? With what Face can these Men, who at present govern the Capital of *Great Britain*, presume to breathe the Spirit of Patriotism, when their whole Conduct is nought but the most unparallel'd Scene of detestable Corruption and Mal-Administration?

However tedious this Display of the Conduct of our *City Ministers* may appear, permit me farther to trespass on your Patience: Truth and the publick Interest demand your Attention; these being only what could engage you to read, or me to write, upon so disagreeable a Subject. To proceed.

The Affairs of *Fleet-Ditch* likewise bring to our View Practices no less shameful and enormous. Mr. *Browne*, a Bricklayer of Eminence and Character, in Nov. 1733. delivered a Proposal for arching over this Ditch, at the time it was propos'd to be fill'd up. So just and reasonable was this Proposal, that he left it wholly to the Committee to pay him in such manner, as they should judge most for the Interest of the City; either according to the Estimate of whomsoever they should appoint to survey the Work, or by the Rod; and this at as reasonable a Price as any other Workman would undertake it. And as he made this fair Proposition, he judg'd he had some Sort of Claim to the Work, as being the City Bricklayer. But others had their Eye upon this Work also, in order to make an handsome Job of it, as usual. Accordingly a Person, wholly unacquainted with Workmanship of this Nature, contracts to undertake it for 4000 *l.*; and he, and the Deputy, thro'

thro' whose all-powerful Interest he procur'd this Affair, hir'd an obscure Understrapper to execute it; and doubtless as much to the Benefit of the City as most Jobs of this nature have been done; and no less to the Interests of the Undertaker. For when we consider what extraordinary private Advantages a certain scheming Deputy has lately contriv'd for his Estates at *Fleet-Ditch*, and elsewhere, at the Expence of the City, it is not to be admir'd, if such a Patriot should, in this very Affair, be actuated by the same publick Spirit. For can it be presum'd, that an obscure Fellow, of no Credit or Ability to carry on a Work of that Size, should reap any considerable Proportion of the Gain to himself? And if so, you *Gentlemen* can never be at a loss to conceive who run away with the Profits, under the Mask of Generosity to others. How this Work was executed, is notorious to Artificers of the best Credit, who were astonish'd to behold the City thus bubbld and impos'd upon.

Nor has the City been less abus'd in the other Works relating to this Matter. Even in the very Article of fixing Posts, it was agreed that they should be compleatly done for 25*s.* each. Notwithstanding this Agreement, an After-clap Bill is brought, of four Shillings and nine-pence apiece for digging the Holes, and levelling the Ground; which Article alone created an additional Expence of 80*l.* 4*s.* You see, *Gentlemen*, that not the least Occasion offers for gross Imposition and publick Plunder, but it is chearfully embrac'd, and countenanc'd by those whom you have entrusted with the Care of your Properties. 'Twou'd be endless to point out all the Abuses of this Kind, which have come to my Hands from various Quarters. Before I dispatch this Particular, it may not be improper to let the Publick into the mercenary Craft of the grand Promoter

motor of the filling up of *Fleet-Ditch*. Tho' twenty Pounds *per Annum* expended would have kept the Ditch securely rail'd in, whereby there would have been no Necessity for filling it up at so great an Expence as it cost; yet this was always artfully neglected and evaded, and many Lives were suffer'd to be lost, purposely to give an Handle to the filling it up. And to what End think you? You mistake, if you imagine the Honour or Interest of this City was any Motive to this Undertaking. No, *Gentlemen*; the Patriot, who secretly conducted this Affair, having an Estate in Houses there, and other kind of Advantages to make, it was necessary, for his own private Emolument, that the Parliament, at a great Expence, should be apply'd to for that Purpose; and that great Numbers of different Artificers shou'd be employ'd, in order to fill the Coffers of their Employers, who questionless have no Share of the exorbitant Profusion of the publick Money.

And to answer still more effectually these glorious and patriot like Ends, was the Market itself projected. For what quivalent Advantages has, or is the City likely to receive, to answer the immense Expence to which these Measures have run it? The annual Income of *Stocks-Market*, which, upon Valuation, might have been made worth to the City upwards of two thousand Pounds a Year †, is totally annihilated, and a considerable Proportion of the Business of that Market remov'd quite out of the City, to the Loss of your Estates, and the Benefit of those who are not Citizens. Tho' it was to the Loss of the City Estates, yet it was not to the Loss of the Projector's; for he had a double Interest hereby:
By

† This considerable Annuity arose by the great Number of Rents that daily sprung from one particular Spot; it being common to shift the Rent of every Spot seven or eight times in one Day, whereby a large annual Revenue arose from each.

By procuring *Stocks-Market* to be pull'd down, and that of *Fleet-Ditch* erected, he not only benefited his Estates contiguous to the latter, but that also at *Leaden-Hall Market*. However these things are likely to answer to the City, it has well answered those wise and honourable Ends of the Schemist who set it on foot; and therefore he certainly merits the lasting good Will and Affection of his Fellow-Citizens, for so sanguinely promoting their general Interest, and shewing so little Regard to his own.

I heartily wish, for the Honour and Interest of the City of *London*, as well as for the Credit and Reputation of those who are invested with the Administration of Affairs, that I had no more of this Sort of Patriotism to trouble you with. But was I to write myself out, I have Matter sufficient to fill a Volume. Suffer me, however, to enlarge a little farther; conceiving even the narrow Limits to which I have circumscribed myself, will be sufficient to rouse and alarm you, my *Countrymen*, to wrest the Power wholly out of the Hands of those, who have so ingloriously abused it.

From the Prevalence of such unparallel'd Measures, 'tis little to be admir'd, that the Bills of our City-Artificers should swell to such an enormous Height, as to give Birth to the following Representation of a Committee, appointed *Febr. 4. 1729.* to enquire into the State of the Revenue of the City and Bridge-House.

“ We, whose Names are subscribed, being your
 “ Committee appointed, with others, by Order of
 “ this honourable Court, to enquire into the State
 “ of the Revenues of this City and Bridge-House,
 “ &c. do certify that we have accordingly several
 “ times met for that purpose.

“ And we find by an Account this Day delivered
 “ to us out of the Chamber, that Mr. Chamber-

lain

lain had overpaid in Cash for this City the Sum
of 12579*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.*

“ That we are further inform’d, that there is still
“ due to Workmen and others, on Bills audited
“ and not audited, and which still remain to be
“ paid, at a moderate Computation, near as much
“ more, which will increase the Debt to about
“ 25,000*l.*

“ We humbly beg leave to take Notice, that the
“ Workmens Bills have increased for several Years
“ past to a very considerable Sum, which we can no
“ otherwise account for, than because having pur-
“ chased their Places, they charge *what Prices they*
“ *think fit to this City.*

“ Therefore, that the growing Evil may be effe-
“ ctually prevented for the future, we are humbly
“ of Opinion, that the Common-Council should be
“ moved for an Act to be passed to prevent hereaf-
“ ter the Sale of any of the Places of the Artificers
“ of the City and Bridge-house, the Shootsman and
“ Purveyor of the Bridge-house, and any other Of-
“ ficers, as the said Court shall think proper, &c.

The Committee then proceeds to shew some other
gross Abuses, too tedious for Transcription, and
continue thus: “ We have likewise consider’d of
“ the Representation of the Creditors of the Bridge-
“ house Accounts, which we presented to this
“ Court, relating to several arbitrary Payments
“ made by the several Officers there, and which
“ were allowed in the Accounts, *without any Vouch-*
“ *ers.*” This is the Substance of the Report.

Sign’d *Harcourt Master.*
Robert Alsop.
John Williams.

This Representation produc’d an Act in the Year
1731. to prevent the Sale of the Places of Artificers
and

and Tradesmen of this City and Bridge-house, and the Purveyor at the Bridge-house; wherein it is enacted, that tho' by the same Act they were then in Possession of the several Places therein at length specified, and that they should hold and enjoy them; yet it is there particularly expressed only upon this Condition, *viz. that they should exercise and enjoy their several Places, no longer than they should respectively well and honestly use and behave themselves therein, according to their several and respective Admittances, and not otherwise.*

How well the Tenor and Spirit of this Act has been adhered to, is manifest by the preceding Instances of Mal-practice, which have been barefacedly carried on since this Act of Common Council was made; and yet none of these Artificers have been remov'd and discharg'd from their respective Places; which certainly would have been the Case, had not it been equally the Interest of those in Power to protect them in their Service for their distinguish'd Equity, Honour, and Integrity in their Professions.

It is further enacted by the Act aforesaid, That *all publick Works, exceeding twenty Pounds in Value, should be advertised three times in the Gazette, or some other publick News-Paper, in Order, and to the Intent, that all Artificers and Tradesmen, skilled in the Work so to be done, or in the Commodities to be bought for the Use of the City, may make Proposals for doing and supplying the same.* In open Violation of this Act, there are numberless Instances of Artificers, who have been employ'd in Works above twenty Pounds in Value, without any Notice thereof given to the Publick by Advertisement, whereby the City might take Advantage of him who would propose to execute them the most to its general Interests. And tho' these Men have insinuated the Absurdity of their own Act, by attempting to shew the Inconvenience and ill

Consequences which attend publick advertising in general; yet how does it appear that not advertising has prevented those ill Consequences? When the most exorbitant Sums have been demanded, and receiv'd for any Work, and no Opposition been given to the Undertakers, have they upon that Account executed it the better? On the contrary, has not the same ill Performance attended unadvertised Work, as can do that which should be advertised? However, an Act for advertising is past, and this was the only Expedient that wise Body could think of to prevent the squandring of the publick Money; and yet now these very Men condemn their own Act, and still practise and contend for the very Corruptions it was enacted to prevent. In Breach of this Act, for Brevity's Sake, I shall only mention the following Instances; viz. tho' Mr. H — is not, yet he is employ'd as City Mason, and therefore ought not to be so, without Advertisement, in any Work exceeding 20 *l.* In the following Works however, he has been employed contrary to the Act.

One Bill, dated *October* 15. 1733. for Stone-Steps in *Moor-fields*, amounting to 48 *l.* 2 *s.* 5 *d.* *Nov.* 19. 1733. Mason's Work done at the *Sessions-house*, 59 *l.* 2 *s.* 9 *d.* $\frac{1}{2}$. *Feb.* 9. and 19. 1733. for Copping Work in *Moor-fields*, 21 *l.* 14 *s.* 7 *d.* *Sep.* 10. 1734. for Mason's Work at *Aldgate* Postern, 30 *l.* 15 *s.* 9 *d.* *July* 20. 1734. Mason's Work at *Bishop's-gate*, to support the Building that had been done by Contract, 160 *l.* 8 *s.* 9 *d.* Hereby the Mason was paid an additional Expence for Work to support his own tottering ill Performance. For Work likewise done without advertising at *Newgate*, which will amount to above 200 *l.* For *Black-friars* Piazza, 77 *l.* For *Fleet-ditch* Channel, 63 *l.* For *Lamb's Conduit*, 48 *l.* But it is endless to enumerate Cases of this Nature, which shew as little Regard to their own Acts, as their Fellow-Citizens Purfes.

The

The Act before-cited says, *that if it so happens that there shall be immediate Occasion for any Work to be done, or Commodity bought, for or upon the Account of the City or Bridge-House, and that the Value of such Work or Commodity, upon a just Estimate made thereof, shall not exceed the Sum of Twenty Pounds, that in such Case the said Committee shall employ the Person whose Proposal was last accepted and approved*—Now to the End that Artificers may engross all Work to themselves, fill their own Coffers, and those of their Employers at the City's Expence, they have Craft and Finesse of a very egregious and commendable Nature. That no Artificer may underbid them, and break in upon their Monopoly, they have FARTHING CONTRACTS, &c. which keep the Work in their own Hands, and exclude all others. For it is common to contract for a Rod of Brick Work for a Farthing *per* Rod, and Mason's Work of Coping for 7 *d.* $\frac{1}{2}$ that is worth 30 *s.* which absolutely evades the Purport of the Act, and defeats the good End therein aimed at; whereby the City continues to be plundered as much as before ever this Act was made. When these unheard of Evasions and Prevarications have been censured, the Promoters of them have had the Confidence, publickly to declare in their Justification of these Enormities, that it was a common Trick in Trade, for Tradesmen at first to sell a Commodity under Price, in order to take a Customer in largely afterwards; and this very Reasoning was urged, *Gentlemen*, among the present Common-Council in Support of FARTHING CONTRACTS, in order afterwards to gull the City out of immense Sums for their private Gain. These, my Fellow-Citizens, are the Men, who at present bear Rule in the City of *London*! These are the upright Patriots, who are the Guardians of Citizen's Purses, and Preservers of their Rights and Properties; who one Day make Laws, and the

next violate 'em themselves for the Honour and Interest of the City!

Though what I have already urged is more than sufficient to display the Characters of these *Gentlemen* in their true Colours, and to excite you to treat them at the ensuing Election with the utmost Resentment and Indignation; yet please to indulge me in a few Cases more, and I shall draw towards a Conclusion.

How these People are linked together in their Patriotism, appears still further from the following Instances likewise. The Stairs at *Black-friars* being but 15 Feet wide of Stone, as was urged, it was found necessary for the Interest of those who were to undertake the Work, to increase their Width to 40 Feet; and it was the Opinion of the Committee then on the Spot, that they should be all of Stone. This by no Means suiting the Interest of the City-Carpenter, he very learnedly argued, that Stone was slippery; and by this distinguished Address, an Order was made by the Committee of City-Lands, that a new Pair of Oak Stairs should be erected at *Black-friars*, adjoining to the Stone-Stairs, whereby to make the whole Width 40 Feet from East to West; and also that four new Piles should be added to the present Number. Nor would Stone to Stone have only been more consistent, but far less expensive to the City. But how shockingly ridiculous it must be thus to add Wood-Stairs to Stone ones, is easier conceived than represented. As those *Gentlemen* have spared no Pains to make themselves contemptible, I hope you, my Countrymen, will crown their Labours, and make them for ever so in the City of *London*, by excluding them from that Power they have prostituted to the most ignoble Purposes.

The Outside of *Guild-Hall* wanting to be stucco'd, the City-Plasterer gave in his Proposals for the same, exclusive of scaffolding, being told by a certain dictatorial Deputy, That he should provide scaffolding
for

for the Execution of his own Work, for the Committee would have nothing to do with the Carpenter in this Affair. But private Application being made to this important Gentleman, by the City-Carpenter, he graciously changed Sentiment, and the very next Committee afterwards issued his Mandate in Favour of the City-Carpenter. Thus does private Interest prevail among the whole Fraternity; and thus do they play into each other's Hands, only to enrich themselves by that Power you have invested them with for other Purposes.

Nor is this only the Case in these particular Instances impartially laid before you; it is the Case likewise with respect to all other Artificers; which I could easily shew, would it not swell these Papers to a greater Bulk than you'll either care to read, or I to write. Is not this the Case with the *Land-Carpenter* of the *Bridge-House*, the *Water-Carpenter*, the *Bridge-House Mason*, the *Bridge-House Bricklayer*, the *City-Plasterer*, the *Bridge-House Plasterer*, the *City-Plumber*, the *Bridge-House-Plumber*, the *City and Bridge-House Painter*, the *City-Printer*, the *City and Bridge-House Glazier*, the *City-Stationer*, the *City-Smith*, the *Bridge-House-Smith*, the *City-Founder*, the *City and Bridge-House Purveyor*? Under each of these Particulars could I entertain you, with very extraordinary Scenes of the most laudable Economy of your publick Treasure; of large Sums paid *without Vouchers*, as the Committee before cited loudly complained of, and the strongest Attachment to private Interest in Opposition to that of the publick.

This Mismanagement of our City Affairs in general, naturally furnishes us with a Key to the late unaccountable Conduct of the same Gentlemen, with regard to the erecting of a *Mansion-House* for the chief Magistrate. For throughout the whole of this Matter, 'tis impossible to believe, that either the Honour or Interest of the City was any Motive

to this Undertaking. Did not the private Interest of a few determine the very Place, in order to procure the Demolition of *Stocks-Market*, and, in Consequence thereof, to erect that of *Fleet-Ditch*? Could any think but the private Interest of *Carpenters*, *Bricklayers*, and *Masons*, and the secret Interest herein of the Patriot Advocates, account for the Struggles that have been made to screen the most glaring Extravagance of the City Money, by endeavouring to bestow the Work on those who should demand the most for executing it? What but private Interest could induce this Work to be given to such only, who had gain'd little Reputation in City Works before? Could it be suppos'd, that they who had abused their respective Trusts, in the Cases before at large represented, should, in this Undertaking, retrieve their Characters? Is it not reasonable to believe, that the same mercenary Principles that have hitherto prevail'd, would do so likewise in the Building of this stately Edifice? And therefore, what an exquisite Piece of Building this City would have been honoured with, is no Difficulty to conceive. Had the Honour and Interest of the City any Share in the unheard-of Tricks and Artifices to evade the Intent of the Act, which enjoins publick Advertisement, in order that the lowest Proposers should only be employ'd? Would it not have been to the eternal Dishonour and Contempt of the City and Magistracy of *London*, to have suffer'd such arbitrary and illegal Practices to have pass'd unopposed and uncontrouled? What a pitiful Insinuation is that of our *modest Enquirer*, to say, that Opposition to such iniquitous Measures would disturb the Peace of the City? Is it better that the City should be plunder'd in the manner it has been, than that the Peace of its Plunderers should be disturb'd, and the City righted? With what Contempt and Laughter would such Reasoning be treated in the City, was it urg'd in

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Favour of *Courts, Ministers, and Parliaments*? When these Men talk of the Peace and Honour of the City, they mean those of their darling selves --- Their Conduct is not to be controul'd, lest, truly, their Peace be disturb'd, and their Honour question'd! What an Insult is this, *Gentlemen*, to your common Sense and Understanding? Was it not to the Honour of the *Aldermen*, who paid no Regard to the Peace and and Quiet of those who aim'd at uncontrollable Pillage and Profusion? Is it not to the Honour of the City, that such Measures have not prevail'd without Opposition from that honourable Court? Was not such a resolute Conduct likely to terminate very much to the Interest, as well as Honour of the City, by bringing such Management to Light? Did not Prudence, Justice and Equity, require that an absolute Stop should be put to such infamous Proceedings? Was not this Negative of the Court of Aldermen the only Way whereby Justice could be done to the City, and to Mess^{rs}. *Dun and Deval*, who are illegally depriv'd of their just Right? For if this Opposition should happily produce a Change of Hands, may not the *Mansion-House* still go on, and a final End be put to all Disputes between the Mayor, Aldermen, and Commoners of the City, consistent with the Act for that Purpose? Does Opposition to bad Measures tend to perpetuate Differences between the distinct governing Powers, as our jesuitical *Enquirer* very wisely argues? Is not such Opposition rather likely to put an happy End to all wicked, arbitrary, and illegal Proceedings, and perpetuate a good Understanding, Union, and Harmony between the Aldermen and Commoners, for the real Honour and Interest of the City? Our modest *Enquirer* allows, that the just and prudent Use of the Negative Voice of the Aldermen, is to controul the Abuse of the Power of the Common-Council. Will this Scribler have the Confidence to say, that

that in the very Case before us, the Commoners have not abused their Power? Have they not attempted to carry a Point injurious to the Rights of their Fellow-Citizens, by endeavouring to deprive all others, but their own Creatures, from having any Chance for the Building of the intended Edifice? How can these Men ever answer this to you, their Electors? This learned Advocate of theirs further argues, that Preference ought to be given to *Horfnail* and *Comp.* because, as they would have had more Money for doing the Work, so they would have perform'd it better than the other Proposers. Do the preceding Cases prove, that the more Money is given for City-Work, the better it is perform'd? Do not these Facts stare this Writer in the Face, and confront his low Insinuations upon this Head? Was not the Work of Mess^{rs} *Dun* and *Deval* Subject to the same Inspection as that of *Horfnail* and *Comp.*? Was it not impossible the lowest Proposer should slight his Work, unless the Surveyor should neglect his Duty? For are not the Articles so strict, that, without such Connivance, no Fraud or Corruption of that Kind is practicable; the Nature and Substance of every single Stone being particularly specified, and the Execution of every Part of the whole Work very minutely described? No Vents, no Spaults are to be suffer'd, the Work is to be rubb'd perfectly true, and not one Tool Stroke is to appear throughout the whole. If any Moulding is strangled, or ill wrought, that Stone is not to be made Use of by the Articles. Besides, one Piece of every Kind of Carving, such as Capitals, Festoons, &c. is to be executed in the most exquisite Manner, and to the perfect Satisfaction of the Surveyor; and when he hath approved of such Pieces of Workmanship, they were to be for Models and Patterns for all the remaining Pieces of Carving respectively. In short, the Articles are so clear, so strong, and so comprehensive,

hensive, that the Surveyor must be shamefully negligent of his Duty, if any Fraud should be committed: the Mason cannot go on so fast, but that he may see every particular Stone, which shall be set in the Building. If the lowest Proposer was thus ty'd down to these Articles, how base and dishonourable are all Suggestions of our modest *Enquirer* with Regard to the ill Execution of the Work?

It cannot be supposed that the Common-Council, as such, are Judges of the Worth of the Mason's Work; and therefore ought they not to be determin'd by the Proposals deliver'd them? That the Sum of the lowest Proposer was a reasonable Sum, appears from Mess. *Horsenail* and *Comp.*; after the opening of the Proposals, offering a Chimney-Piece of 250*l.* Value, in order by this clandestine Management to come under Mess. *Dun* and *Deval.* 'Tis ridiculous, therefore, to suppose that three Gentlemen of such allow'd Abilities, would venture upon a Matter of so much Importance, without mature Deliberation, and a thorough Knowledge of what they were about: And certainly it is not less absurd to imagine, that they would engage in such an Affair without Profit; and to suppose they would be guilty of any unwarrantable Practices in the Execution of the Work, in order to make it square with their Price, is destroying all that hath been said of their Honour and Probity.

Was the saving to the City, by the Opposition, so inconsiderable as the *Enquirer* makes it, the contrary of which will be made appear; yet would it not have been suffering an ill Precedent, had such Measures pass'd uncontroll'd, that might in future have prov'd very destructive of the City Treasure? For what is the End of permitting Competitors for the Work, but to manifest a laudable Frugality in the Management of the City Affairs, the Necessity of which appears beyond Dispute? And if the only

of which appears beyond Dispute? And if the only

Criterion whereby the Competition can be decided, is the lowest Proposition made; and yet this is not to take place, but still the highest Proposer must be favour'd, contrary to the very End and Design of all Competition whatever; with what View can such Measures be upheld, but for ever after to prevent all Rivalship and Competition, and consequently to run into the most abominable Scenes of Corruption, and Mismanagement of the publick Money? And this indeed appears to be the only Motive for your honourable Representatives arbitrarily to attempt a barefac'd Evasion of the Design of their own Act, by defeating the very End of all publick advertising. But as this Act was not enacted without the Consent of the *Aldermen*, have not they who had an Hand in making of the Act, a Right to support it, and prevent the Violation of their own Act, when, to answer private Ends, the Commons would usurp a Power to dispense with their own Laws? Did not the *Aldermen* therefore, in this Case, make as just and prudent a Use of their negative Voice, as in any of the other Instances the *Enquirer* mentions? But these Representatives of yours, as their Advocate unluckily confesses, are under terrible Apprehensions, that next they shall be controul'd in the Choice of their Committees.* Does this betray any Concern for the Honour and Interest of the City? It only betrays the Dread these Men are under, lest that Power, which has check'd them in some Scenes of Corruption, should extend itself to others. And if you, my *Fellow-Citizens*, will not put an End to their Iniquities, by turning them quite out of their Power, I doubt not but those Worthies, who have struck a Panick to them already, will exert themselves to the utmost of their legal Authority, that they shall not dare to trample upon the Laws of the City, and destroy its Constitution to enrich them-

themselves and Families at the City's Expence. What Regard have these Men shew'd to their own Acts, by hiring an Hackney-Scribbler † to write against publick advertising at all? But the whole of this Mansion-House Affair has been set in so just and strong a Light by a *Gentleman*, who lately distinguish'd himself in Behalf of the City in the *Daily Advertiser*; and who I wish had oblig'd us, as he promis'd, with what I have undertaken, that the Revival of these Pieces, address'd to a *Member of the Committee*, will give you a full Idea of the Measures that have been taken upon this Occasion. For as these Letters remain unanswer'd, your fresh Refusal of them will enable you to judge, whether any Injury was done to the Characters of those who abetted these late Proceedings, notwithstanding the Epithet of a malicious Libeller, that the *modest Enquirer* bestows on their Author.

To a Member of the Committee for Building a Mansion-House.

S I R,

AS you are the most distinguished Personage of all those Worthies who have been appointed to conduct the *Mansion-House* Affair; and as it may reasonably be presumed, that no Step has been taken therein without your Concurrence and Approbation, if not by your immediate Prescription, you will hardly think it extraordinary, that any thing upon this Subject should be address'd to you: Nay, to whom can we more consistently direct what concerns the Liberties of the Subject, and the just Management and Application of the publick Treasure, than to him who has so conspicuously proved himself an Advocate for both?

But I am sorry to say, that your Conduct in this Degree of Power, has given the World Reason to doubt the Uprightness and Sincerity of your Patriotism in general: For of what Kind of Principles

† Vide *White-hall Evening-Post*.

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must a Gentleman be, who can loudly declaim for the Liberty of the Press in National Matters, and yet notoriously attempt to destroy it in the Affairs of a Corporation only? Why otherwise did you countenance and encourage such arbitrary Proceedings against the Printer and Publisher of the List, which only contained the Names of those Gentlemen who voted for the highest Proposer? This glaring Repugnancy of Principles in Power and out of it, must make every Man of common Understanding believe, that you have been actuated in your publick Conduct by other Motives than what have been pretended; and that the popular Voice has been more the Aim of your Patriotism than the publick Interests.

This Rigour and Severity, attempted to be exercised towards the Printer and Publisher of the List, have given the World, I assure you, just Reason to suspect, that these Measures were not taken merely against such an inoffensive Matter, but to deter and intimidate others from presuming to make any further Enquiry into the Merits of this *Mansion-House* Affair, which is become the Topick of all Conversations. But, Sir, if your Conduct herein has been justifiable, Why was such a general Panick excited at the first Appearance of a Scrutiny? If it will not stand the Test of a decent Examination, Is it not the Interest of the City that it should by no Means pass unexamined?

The true Friends to Liberty, among whom I am afraid your *Fellow-Citizens* will hardly rank you in future, profess, that as Men in Power deserve Punishment for the Abuse of it, so are their false Accusers and Defamers justly entitled to no better Fate. But wherein do the Falshood and Defamation of this harmless List consist, that so much Rage and Inveteracy have been pointed at it? Is it scandalous, false, and malicious, as was suggested by another Gentleman of the Committee, to exhibit to publick View, the Names of those memorable Patriots, who
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thought it most consistent with the *Œ*conomy of the publick Money, to give 17,200*l.* for the Masonry Work of the designed Edifice, rather than 16,975*l.* for the same Work? Instead of its being scandalous and unjustifiable to particularize the Names of these City Worthies, I am afraid, *Sir*, their Actions in this Affair will not be thought otherwise by the good Citizens of *London*; for Actions are more significant than Words; and, indeed, I wish the extraordinary Conduct of some City-Managers may not be beyond the Power of Words to do Justice to their Characters.

It was not the mere Collection, it seems, of these Gentlemen's Names together, that has given such mighty Offence, but their being thus publicly distinguished by their respective Titles and Honours, is what has put you and your Friends, I am apt to think, out of Temper. More strange this truly! that *Gentlemen* should take the greatest Pains to obtain Honours, and be ashamed afterwards to be distinguished by them. These Titles only shew the good Harmony and Understanding that cement that illustrious Body together. And what a glorious Sight is it to behold such an august Assembly most christianly united in the Bond of——, for the Honour, Glory, and Prosperity of the Corporation of *London*?

This Generosity towards your Adherents and Extollers of your Patriotism, shews (the World says) a pre-determined Resolution *who* was to relish the Advantages of your publick Spirit at the Expence of the City. If such a Resolution was taken in your private Cabals, What an egregious Imposition upon the common Sense of your *Fellow Citizens*, was the Pretence of an Advertisement, to bestow the Undertaking on the lowest Proposer? Such Conduct, it is said, favours as little of impartial Justice towards the Citizen-Proposers, as Equity in the Disposal

and Management of the publick Treasure; for if the Persons who should be the Undertakers, were *absolutely pitched upon* before the Advertisement, were not all other Proposers necessarily excluded from any Prospect of Success, had the Saving to the City been much more extraordinary than it is? Is not this likewise in effect excluding all other Citizens from their *Right* to propose as well as the Favourites of your *Juncto*? But other Proposers might not have it in their Power to retaliate the Obligation in the Way of the City Affairs, which prove to be most harmoniously concerted; and therefore it might be wise and expedient the City Money should be graciously squandered, to uphold that good Understanding which subsists among the Gentlemen of the various C——s, in order the more effectually to support each other in their future——, for the Glory, Honour, and Prosperity of the City.

That from the whole of the Proceedings it appears, their chief Aim was to obtain *full Powers* to bestow the Work upon their own Creatures, without *advertising* at all, will not be questioned by any one who has attended to their Conduct. Was not a *Mansion-House, without advertising*, the constant Toast of the City-Rulers? Did not a distinguished A——n motion, *That full Power might be granted to the Committee to contract with such Artificers as they should think qualified to compleat the Mansion-House*? And did not this necessarily exclude all advertising? Was not this extraordinary Motion repeated twice by Order of a certain Gentleman, you are not quite a Stranger to? With what View could this be, was it not intended to have the Sanction of the Court? Nay, was not this even expressly declared by another important A——n, when he unwarily said, upon the Court's ordering the Work to be advertised, *That the Artificers, intended to do the Work, were already acquainted with it*; and that therefore a Fort-
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night was a sufficient Time for them to draw up their respective Proposals ; which was the Point that occasioned his making this unlucky Discovery.

If then, Sir, it will not be denied, that every Measure has been taken to bestow the *whole* Work upon such Artificers as you and your Friends should fix upon, without advertising at all ; was not likewise any Sum of Money, they should have demanded for the same, to have been as readily complied with? For if no Advertisement was to have been suffered, the designed Undertakers could not have been opposed ; and consequently, whatever Sum they had the Conscience to have asked, is it to be supposed that you and your Fellow-patriots would have scrupled to have given? Was not this uncontrollable Profusion the great End that was attempted by our City Œconomists, by endeavouring to grasp at unlimited Power, to give the Work to whom they pleased, and generously to oblige their own Devotees with what Money they in their great Goodness and Beneficence to the City should think proper to demand, in order the better hereafter to enable them to retaliate the Obligation to their bountiful Benefactors? Whether such Measures are consistent with the wise and equitable Management of the Property of my *Fellow-Citizens* ; and whether they tend to ease the Burthen of their City Taxes, shall be the Subject of some future Animadversions ; which will shew how the Money Affairs of this City have for several Years past been conducted, notwithstanding the utmost Art, Industry and Power have been used to stifle and suppress every thing of this Nature.

To a Member of the Mansion-house Committee.

S I R,

THERE are various Conjectures with Regard to your Silence, in making no Reply to what has
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has been address'd to you concerning your late extraordinary Conduct, which has drawn upon you the Eyes of the Publick. Some are of Opinion, that you thereby discover no small Prudence and Discernment, lest Opposition to those glaring Truths should occasion such a Rejoinder, as would keep alive that Spirit of Resentment and Detestation in my *Fellow-Citizens*, that has been so justly rais'd against those who have countenanced and encouraged such a shameful and unjustifiable Procedure. Others are of different Sentiments, and suggest, that you are pleas'd to treat this Enquiry with the utmost Contempt and Defiance, and its Abettors with the greatest Scorn and Derision. But I am rather inclinable to believe the former Opinion; that you and your Brethren dread the Consequence of this Examination, and therefore wisely judge Moderation and Forbearance more likely to suppress it, than Sophistry, Virulence and Inveective. For what other Artillery can be play'd against Truth and the publick Interests?

○ However cool and indifferent you may be about the publick Opposition, to what has hitherto been laid before the World, yet it seems, you are privately very industrious in propagating, that you was actually for the lowest Proposer; and therefore you would insinuate, that you are justly entitl'd to have your Name expunged from the Catalogue of Offenders. Nobody will dispute but at the first Consideration of this Affair, you did declare yourself in Favour of the lowest Undertaker, and indeed oblig'd the Court with very good Reasons for so doing; but did you not afterwards change Sentiment? Did you not fly in the Face of your own avowed Principles, and join with those who spared no Art or Endeavour, to perfect the Agreement in Behalf of the highest Proposer? Had you been first for the highest, repented of your evil Doings, and persevered
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in Truth to the End, your Name had never appeared amidst the Unrighteous: But to enter into the Paths of Truth at first, abandon them, and persist in your bad Ways to the last, can never entitle you, not even in the Opinion of the most Orthodox, whom of late you so greatly caress and fawn upon, to have your Name obliterated from the List of the Encouragers and Partizans of Iniquity.

The only Reason you gave for this Inconsistency of Conduct was, as you were pleased to express it, *for the sake of Peace; and that the good Work of building a Mansion-house might go on.* Is not this a publick Confession of the very thing you in private deny? Was it not intended, by this Alteration of your Principles, that the good Work should peaceably go on for the highest Proposers? But I am at a Loss to conceive how your being for the lowest would have broke the Peace of the City? Is not this the severest Reflection that you could cast upon your Friends, by insinuating that a restless and turbulent Spirit is too natural to them, if their exorbitant Cravings are not amply gratified? Were you afraid that the good Work would have been set aside by their tumultuous Outrages, that you expressed yourself diffident whether it would go on or no, if certain *Gentlemen* had not the doing of it? Most arbitrary Proceeding truly! What! if our own Creatures have not the doing of the Work, and that at their own exorbitant Price too, it shall not be done at all! Sure your Fellow-Citizens will never forget such over-bearing, oppressive, and unprecedented Measures; such an Insult to their Understandings, and so little Regard to their Rights and their Purses.

Fearful of the Consequences of such shameful and unjustifiable Management of the publick Money, various Colourings and Artifices have been contrived to gloss it over, and conceal it from the vulgar Eye, Among all the Craft and Dexterity of this Kind,
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there is none that exceeds those popular Insinuations, That the lowest Proposers had depreciated the Work; and were, indeed, by no Means equal to the Undertaking. To what mean and scandalous Subterfuges are Men driven to support a bad Cause? To confront this groundless Suggestion, I need only quote what has proceeded from the very same Mouth that made it: I mean the dishonourable Attempt that was made to wrest the Work from the lowest Undertakers, by the Proposition of presenting the City with a Chimney-Piece to the intended Mansion-house of the Value of 250*l*. Had the Work been depreciated, how could this Proposition have been honourably complied with? Had the highest Proposer no Competitors, which you are too sensible has been the great Aim of the Committee, would not the City have been egregiously plunder'd of 2195*l*.? Who were to participate of these unrighteous Gains at the Expence of my Fellow-Citizens of *London*, I am not at Liberty to surmise. Certain however it is, that there is a most extraordinary good Understanding between our City Rulers; and doubtless this round Sum was to be applied to the Support of the good old Cause. Was it not the Integrity and Honour of the lowest, that brought down the Exorbitancy of the highest, from 19,170*l*. to 16,975*l*.? Now let the impartial Publick judge, who made a just Estimate of the Work, and who shamefully over-rated it, and attempted in the Face of the Sun, to prevent meeting with any Opposition herein.

What still renders this depreciating Insinuation the more infamous is, the dishonourable Attempt thereby made to ruin the Characters of the other Artificers, in order to raise those of the Gentlemen who were intended to have the Job. Was I disposed to draw Parallels, which I believe some People would not be very fond of, it might easily be made appear,

appear, that the Characters for able and experienced Workmen, are as deservedly due to the lowest as to the highest Proposers. I am afraid your Friends, however big they may talk over their Cups, would not make the greatest Quantity of publick Works; and these executed with the greatest Reputation, the Touchstone whereby to determine the Merits of the Parties in this Respect. Nay, have not both the contending Parties been engaged in Partnership, in Undertakings of far greater Importance than the Building of this Mansion-house? I never heard of any Accident, or Disreputation attending the Work of Messrs *Dunn* and *Deval*: I have heard, indeed, of Workmanship being proposed to be done for less than 700*l*. which has stood the City in above double the Sum, on Account of the ill Performance of it. But as to the Work of our City Artificers, and the Variety of genteel Ways that you, and your Admirers have long taken to oblige them out of the Treasure of the City, shall be taken Notice of hereafter: It is sufficient for my present Purpose, to observe, that all Reflections and Insinuations, questioning the Abilities and Integrity for Workmanship of the Under-Proposers, are without Foundation, and only calculated to serve a Turn. And therefore, as you are a Member of the Committee, as you are a Gentleman of the greatest Weight and Influence in the Committee; and as you are a Magistrate, your Fellow-Citizens might justly expect, that you, in a more particular Manner, should have discountenanced every thing that looks with the Face of Dishonour or Injustice: And certainly, whatever you may think to the contrary, you will never be able to persuade the World, that it is either honourable or just to deprive the lowest Proposer of his Right to the designed Work, or the City of their publick Treasure, by giving the Work to the highest Proposer.

The Opposition, *Sir*, permit me to say, have steer'd by other Kind of Principles; 'tis true, they have opposed these Proceedings, as you were pleas'd to say, Step by Step; but not for Opposition Sake, not to shew how prettily they could declaim and satyrize, or mimick the God-like Patriot, with a View only to Power and Popularity: No, they opposed out of no Malignity to your Person, but Contempt to your arbitrary Measures; not to disturb the Peace of the City, but out of Regard to personal Justice, and Parsimony of the publick Money; not to fill their private Coffers, but to prevent those of the City being unjustly emptied, and our Fellow-Citizens bubbled, duped, and imposed on, by a Combination of any Persons whatsoever. So far have the Opposition been from attempting to prevent this good Work going forward, that you cannot forget they propos'd the most reconciling Measures; they propos'd to put an End to these Disputes, by giving the Work equally between both the Proposers; but not for the highest, but the lowest Sum, for which the Work was offer'd to be undertaken. But this, you know, was treated with the highest Contempt, by those who have too long, perhaps, found their Account in such Kind of Jobbs. Is it not proper therefore, that the Publick should know how the City is govern'd, that they may shew their just Resentment and Detestation of such Proceedings?

How inconsistent this Conduct is with the Oath of our Common-Council, will appear by the Copy thereof, which I beg Leave likewise to lay before you.

The OATH of a COMMON-COUNCIL-MAN.

YE shall swear that you shall be true to our Sovereign Lord the King that now is, and to his Heirs,

Heirs, and Successors, Kings of *England*, and readily ye shall come, when ye shall be summoned to the Common-Council of this City, but if ye be reasonably excused; and good and true Counsellors ye shall give in all Things touching the Commonwealth of this City, after your Wit and Cunning: *And that for Favour of any Person, ye shall maintain no singular Profit against the common Profit of this City:* And after that ye be come to the Common-Council, you shall not thence depart until the Common-Council be ended, without reasonable Cause, or else by the Lord-Mayor's License. And also any Secret Things that be spoken or said in Common-Council, *which ought to be kept secret*, and in no wise you shall disclose, *as God you help.*

Having now, my Fellow-Citizens, impartially laid before you, the general Mis-management of the Money Affairs of your City; and this from a Series of incontestable Facts, not by general Declamation and personal Invective and Scurrility, it is to be hoped, you will at the ensuing Election shew yourselves *Englishmen*, and no way Abettors of the Cause of those who have thus mal-treated you. It is an Insult to your common Sense and Understanding, to suppose that you can think these Men fit to be entrusted again with the Care and Disposal of your Properties, when they have so dishonourably abused that Trust you have reposed in them. Men who will thus act in the particular Instances laid before you, will they not have the same Self-interested Point in View throughout the whole of their Measures? Can you be so credulous as to think, that whenever such Men pretend the Honour and Interest of the City, they do not always mean that of their dear Selves? Can you imagine that Persons of those selfish Principles, do not make a Penny of every Place in their Disposal? Does not the *List*, which has given them such Disgust, shew how craftily they support each other in

their divers Committees; the better to uphold and enrich their Patriot-Juncto? Have they not multiply'd *Committees*, merely to augment their common Power and Interest, the more effectually to pillage the *Metropolis*, run the City into Debt, and consequently in Time to increase the heavy Burthen of your City Taxes? Can you ever forget how these *Gentlemen* projected only in the simple Article of *Lamp-lighting*, above Two Thousand Pounds *per Annum* into their own Pockets; as appears by Mr. *Marshal's* Estimate thereof. Have not these Men long supported themselves in their Oppression, by greatly easing the Expence of some popular *Wards* in the City, in order to lay heavier Taxes upon others; and in this flagrant Manner have they not, as it were, bribed their *Fellow-Citizens* with their own Money?

The Office of a *Common-Council-Man* of this *Metropolis* is not below a Citizen of the greatest Wealth, Honour and Integrity; and such who are of unspotted Characters among you, it is to be hoped will offer themselves as Candidates in Opposition to this all-grasping Set of People, who have brought the greatest Dishonour upon the Capital of *Great-Britain*. Such of you, *Gentlemen*, who are not disposed to stand yourselves, permit your *Fellow-Citizens* to prevail on you, vigorously to espouse the Cause of those who will, but of none but such whose Characters are without Spot or Blemish. Change of Measures is not only of Importance to your immediate Properties, but to your Liberties and future Prosperity in general; for should ever those at the Head of national Affairs, fall in with the Corruption of your City-Representatives; and they in Conjunction should attempt to destroy the Liberties of the Press, and by all Arts in their Power, pick your Pockets, and make such Laws, as would impoverish and humble the City, will not Posterity groan under the Miseries which

which their Ancestors brought upon them? The flourishing State of the City of *London*, does in a great Measure depend upon the Wisdom and Uprightness of its Magistrates and Representatives. For while they steddily pursue the publick Interests, Will they not have greater Weight and Authority, at critical Points of Time on the great Representative Body of the Nation, when any Thing comes upon the Tapis, wherein the Honour and Interest of the City is concerned? But with what Influence and Majesty can a Body of corrupt Representatives, pretend to contend for the common Interests? If such would really attempt to make a Stand for the Trade and Liberties of our City, Will they not be despised by the *Court*, the *Parliament*, and their *Fellow-Citizens*? There being Reason to believe that such speak only their own partial and depraved Sense, not the true and honest Sentiments of the Citizens of *London*.

The Sense of the City of *London* is generally the Sense of the whole Nation; and if its Representatives, who are the Mouth of the City, are notoriously prostitute and abandon'd to the publick Interest, with what Dignity and Solemnity, can they eccho the Sense of their Electors? Be the general Administration of the Nation ever so detestable and unpopular, how can such a City-Magistracy any way contribute to check and controul their Power? How can Men who are publick Oppressors and petty Tyrants themselves, be any way instrumental to stem the Torrent of national Corruption and Mal-Administration, should it ever prevail among those at the Helm of publick Affairs?

It is not to be doubted, *Gentlemen*, but those Men who have so eminently distinguish'd themselves in the Arts of Corruption, will still attempt to practise the same on your very Persons, to the End that they may still support themselves, in their Design against
your

your Properties. But sure my *Fellow-Citizens* you will not be so deaf to your own Welfare, and that of your Posterity, as to suffer yourselves to be imposed on by the low Arts of Insinuation, Cringing and Fawning! When these Men apply for your Votes and Interest, throw their corrupt and dishonourable Practices in their Teeth; and sure they cannot have the Confidence to be importunate. If they give you repeated Assurances of personal Friendship and Services, can you pay any Regard to the Word of those who appear to have paid none to their Oaths? Assure yourselves, no Arts will be left untry'd to uphold their lucrative Monopoly. Beware of their Solicitations in every Shape, particularly by Letters from other Persons of Weight and Dignity, in their Behalf: Forgery itself having been too often practised upon these Occasions. The World has so good an Opinion of the native Integrity, Honesty, and plain good Sense of the *Freemen* of *London*, that nothing can bias them to run counter to the Honour and Interest of their City, if they are well apprized of its Danger. This I have faithfully taken the Liberty to do; and this only from a Narrative of plain Facts, presented to you in the plain Dress of a Citizen; and I trust they will have the happy Effect that every just and impartial *Freeman* of this City must generously and heartily desire. I am, *Gentlemen*, upon all such Occasions, unask'd and unthank'd,

Your Devoted Humble Servant

AND

FELLOW-CITIZEN.

A LIST



A
LIST
OF
Seven ALDERMEN,

AND
One Hundred and Ten Commoners,

Who appeared in COMMON-COUNCIL in
Behalf of the Proposal of Mess. *Townsend*,
Horsenail, and *Taylor*, to do the Mason's
Work of the intended Mansion-House for
17200 l.

In Opposition to the Proposal of Mess. *Dun*
and *Deval*, to do the same Work, with equal
Security, and subject to the same Inspection,
for 16975 l.

Those to whose Names are prefixed the Figure

- 1 Voted the second and seventh of June 1738.
- 2 Voted the seventh of June only, not being there the second.
- 3 Were the second of June for Mess. *Dun* and *Deval*'s Proposal; yet voted the seventh of June for Mess. *Townsend*, *Horsenail*, and *Taylor*'s Proposals.

Those

Those to whose Names are added the Letter

- A Are of the Committee for letting the City's Lands.
- B Were of the said Committee 1737, and went out 1738.
- C Are of the Committee for building the Mansion-house.
- D Are of the Committee for regulating Woodmongers.
- E Are of the Committee for the Markets.
- F Are of the Committee for regulating the Watch.
- G Are of the Committee for Gresham College.
- H Were of the Committee for Gresham College 1737, and went out 1738.
- I Are of the Committee for preventing Jews being free.
- K Are of the Commissioners of Sewers.
- L Were this Year chosen Governors of the Work-house.
- M Are of the Society to manage Estates in Ireland.
- N Were of the said Society 1737, and went out 1738.

A L D E R M E N.

- 2 **B** Arber John Esq; A C I K M. President of St. Bartholomew's Hospital.
- 3 Barnard Sir John B C G K.
- 2 Child Sir Francis A C F H K M. President of Christ-Church Hospital.
- 3 Godscall Sir Robert A C F I K.
- 3 Lambert Daniel Esq; A F I K. President of the London Workhouse.
- 2 Marshall Henry Esq; G I K.
- 3 Westley Robert Esq; A E F K. Treasurer of St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

Com-

COMMONERS.

Alderfgate.

- 1 **S** NART John A C E K.
- 1 Chowne Edward I.
- 1 Bayley Richard M.
- 1 Underwood John F K.
- 1 Ballard Samuel K L.
- 1 Parker Robert.

Aldgate.

- 3 Sandford Thomas A C E K.
- 2 Fullagar Christopher K.
- 2 Corderoy Charles E.

B A S S I S H A W.

Billingfgate.

- 1 Parker William B K.
- 2 Jackson James.

Bishop's-Gate.

- 1 Danfie James A C E F G K. *Surgeon to the Lock at Kingsland.*
- 1 Cotton Charles.
- 1 Davis Daniel K.
- 1 Long Thomas M.
- 2 May John G.
- 2 Lee Jacob. *Candidate to be Surgeon to St. Bartholomew's-Hospital.*
- 2 Poole William H. *Candidate to be Bailif of the Borough of Southwark.*

- 1 Webb John M.
- 1 Roberts Peter.
- 1 Fawdrey Robert E.
- 1 Wily Henry K.
- 1 Benn William A.
- 1 Holland John K.
- 2 Forty John N.

Breadstreet.

- 1 Lucas Anthony F K N.

Bridge.

- 1 Herbert Cornelius D F.
- 1 Kinleside William A. *Candidate to be Apothecary to Chrif't's-Hospital.*
- 1 Barfoot Richard.
- 1 Archer Edward B.

B R O A D S T R E E T.

Candlewick.

- 1 Douglas John B L.
- 1 Thompson Joseph K. *City-Painter.*

Castle-baynard.

- 1 Grimstead Valentine.
- 1 Smith Nicholas M.
- 1 Townsend John G. *One of the Proposers.*
- 1 Belchier John G.
- 1 Innys William.
- 1 Lord William A D F K.
- 1 Williams Samuel H.
- 1 Territt Robert.
- 1 Cordwell John G L. *City-Carpenter.*

Cheap.

Cheap.

- 2 Sedgwick Samuel.
- 1 Waite Robert M.
- 1 Myers William I M.
- 1 Webb Allen F I. *Druggist to St. Bartholomew's-Hospital.*
- 1 Smith Thomas.

COLEMAN STREET.

Cordwainer.

- 1 Yerbury Walter K.

CORNHILL.

Cripplegate Within.

- 2 Elton Thomas K.
- 1 Bonner Daniel F M.
- 1 Nichol Thomas.
- 1 Tims William C I. *Clerk of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and Candidate to be Town-Clerk.*
- 1 Vincent George D.
- 1 Scott Thomas.
- 1 Hartley Charles B C K.
- 2 Scott Isaac A.

Cripplegate Without.

- 1 Farington Richard C G I K.
- 1 Deeton John B. *Keeper of the Green-yard, and Field-Keeper to Moor-fields.*

- 1 Cooper William E K. *Bricklayer to the Commissioners of the Sewers, and to St. Bartholomew's-Hospital.*

Dowgate.

- 1 Hodges Benjamin C D F K.
2 Braithwaite Wilkinson.
1 Curryer Thomas.
2 Peers William K.
2 Bindon John.

Farringdon Within.

- 2 Everet John C K.
1 Skinner Richard.
1 Owen William M.
1 Sleath Gabriel K.
1 Sclater Richard M.
1 Mills Samuel.
1 Mills Giles.
1 Hayne Thompson A F.
3 Siffon Henry. *Druggist to St. Bartholomew's Hospital.*
1 Taylor Robert A. *One of the Proposers.*
1 Mael Robert.
1 Woolaston Samuel.
2 Harwood Richard M.

Farringdon Without.

- 1 Master Alexander M.
2 Ruffel Walter.
1 Walmesly Edward N.
1 Crutchfield John F L.
1 Nash Thomas C K.
1 Horsenail Christopher K. *One of the Proposers.*
1 Page Abraham N.
1 Ketteriche Thomas N.

1 Robinson

- 1 Robinson Philip N.
- 1 Nutt Richard K.
- 1 Price Charles M.
- 1 Child John K N.
- 1 Holloway Henry A. *Surgeon to Christ's-Hospital.*
- 1 Innocent John B M.

Langborn.

- 1 Barker John K.
- 1 Townsend John K. *Surgeon to London Work-House.*

Limestreet.

- 1 Knight Richard K.

Portfoken.

- 2 Brewis Valentine K.
- 2 Pycroft Robert A L. *Brewer to St. Bartholomew's and Christ's-Hospital.*
- 2 Williams John.

Queenhithe.

- 3 Aycliffe Joseph C E K.
- 1 Tew William K.
- 2 Northey Thomas. *Apothecary to St. Bartholomew's Hospital.*

Tower.

- 3 Tatem Samuel C K.
- 1 Phillips James F. *Surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital.*
- 1 Evans Robert C E G.

1 Scullard

- 4 Scullard William K.
- 1 Green Thomas B L.
- 2 Holmes Samuel.
- 1 Rivet Edward.
- 2 Seal Henry E.H.
- 1 Romman Richard E.H.

V I N T R Y.

Walbrook.

- 3 Henshaw Robert I.
- 1 Arnold William K.

F I N I S.



